



Spark Gap

Vol. 35, Issue 1, January 2018 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for thirty-five years*

On Our MARC:

Welcome to 2018!!

Hope everyone had a good Holiday Season and Santa brought you what you asked for. I would like to thank everyone that brought something to eat to our December meeting. The food was great and I hope that everyone enjoyed the White Elephant exchange. I know I did!

The New Year hasn't been very nice to some people. Please keep the following families in your thoughts and prayers. The Rose family as Mike's wife is going through treatment for AML, the Ellis family as Steve's mother in law passed away and his wife is having heart issues and we found out last month that Steve himself has been sick, Cy Young is in the hospital, and Sam Carter's wife has been sick for a while. The last part of 2017, we had Bruce Tisdale & Rusty Kirts going through surgery but all seems to be going good for them right now. I'm sure all these families would appreciate it!

I would like to thank Bruce Tisdale, K9ICP for taking over Activity Coordinator. Bruce will only be taking over being in charge of the events set up and organizing what is needed for the event. We are still looking for someone to take over getting speakers for the club. Talking about speakers, Bruce, K9ICP will be our speaker for Jan.

The January presentation will be a 15-20 minutes power point and discussion titled: "The Basics of Solar Indices and Propagation". As we moving into the solar cycle minimum, HF/VHF band conditions will become more difficult and inconsistent. This is primarily caused by solar activities that impact ionization of earth's atmosphere making transmission and reception of signals via skip less reliable.

My presentation will review this solar activities and there impact on propagation. It will include: what specific solar activities causes changes in propagation, what the impact is on radio signals, what solar measures help us predict band conditions (i.e., Sunspot numbers, A-index, K-Index, etc.), and where these measure can be found. Knowing and using this information help hams anticipate bands conditions and ultimately communication successfully.

With the New Year, Club dues are due. Please see Marlys Barr, KC9BHM, about getting dues current for 2018.

Hope to see you Saturday. The coffee will be on.

Jacki, KI6QOG
President



Birthdays for the month of January:

KD9ALA - Ken Barr

KD9BHM - Marlys Barr

KC9WLF - Jim Busch

KB9BVN – Brian Murrey

N9EJR-Jim Williams

KB9UJE-Matt Payne

KC9ZMV-Cliff Whitrock

M.A.R.C. ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST

Food, fun and fellowship made up the menu as MARC members and their spouses gathered for the annual Christmas breakfast pitch-in. This year's serving table featured lots of pastries, egg casseroles, cheesy potatoes and biscuits with sausage gravy just to mention a few. Cracker Barrel would be jealous of this Christmas feast.

Just back from her Caribbean cruise, club president Jacki KI6QOG was speechless. Actually, she was suffering from laryngitis and had to whisper her thoughts through club VP Ron Schuetz-K9THR. Following the fifteen minute year in review music video produced by Jack W8ISH, everyone selected a White Elephant gift from the table in hopes of getting a real treasure for Christmas. The selection included reindeer ears, FRS radio, earphones, remote speaker, an old router and the ever popular six inch flashing led Christmas tree circuit board. Chris-KQ9Y had it chained to an anchor bag but the tree kept moving around the room as more hams tried to steal the present to make it their own. The tree won last year's gift exchange as the most sought after present as well. Maybe we should buy the kit and build it for next years Christmas party.

.....Jack-w8ish



Jacki now has an MFJ speaker



Noel has an FRS radio



Scott and the Hot Lips Face Heater



Rusty and his present



Chris and his tree



The serving line, much food!



Ron and his high tech present



Mike & Marlys full of cheer

Second Annual AM Rally Special Event Set for February 2-4 Weekend

The second-annual AM Rally is inviting operators to explore the original phone mode over the February 2-4 weekend. Co-sponsor Clark Burgard, N1BCG, said the event "is intended to be both fun and educational." It encourages all radio amateurs to get on AM, possibly for the first time.



"Because of resurgent interest in AM, the event is also an opportunity for amateurs new to AM to learn about proper settings and get the most performance out of their station, whether it's modern, vintage, tube, transistor, software-defined, military, boat anchor, broadcast, home brewed, or commercially made," Burgard said.

The AM Rally website includes tips and suggestions for various transmitter types as well as links to additional information. Certificates will be awarded for most states contacted and most contacts overall made by stations in five power-output classes. Some "special recognitions" will be made on an ad hoc basis, Burgard said.

The AM Rally gets under way at 0000 UTC on Saturday, February 3, and concludes at 0700 UTC on Monday, February 5. Band include 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, and 6 meters.

The 2017 AM Rally, which was held in April, was deemed , with nearly 1,500 contacts reported on the 72 logs submitted.

..... ARRL News January 2018

What the heck is the ARRL Board thinking?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

About a month ago, I received an email from the ARRL. Attached were minutes of a Special Board Meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors (<http://www.kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Minutes-of-Special-Board-Meeting-ARRL-Board-of-Directors-1.pdf>) held by teleconference on Tuesday, November 14, 2017. At first, I didn't think much of it, but after reading the minutes, I thought to myself, "What heck are these guys thinking?"

What the minutes document is the censure of Dick Norton, N6AA, for "criticizing publicly the collective action of the Board of Directors adopting said Code of Conduct[sic] and drawing the Board's collective decision making into disrepute." I won't quote the whole thing here, but you can find the text on my website at <http://www.kb6nu.com/heck-arrrl-board-thinking/>.

So, what is this ARRL Code of Conduct? It's official name is the ARRL Policy on Board Governance and Conduct of Members of the Board of Directors and Vice Directors, and the board adopted this code at the January 20-21, 2017 board meeting. You can find this code on the ARRL website at [http://www.arrl.org/files/file/ODV/ARRL Code of Conduct.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/ODV/ARRL%20Code%20of%20Conduct.pdf).

To be fair, this document does include some good things, such as acting responsibly when it comes to ARRL financial matters and treating ARRL staff with respect. What seems to be questionable, and the reason for N6AA's censure, however, is Section 8 Support of Board Decisions. I won't quote the entire section here, but basically what it says an ARRL board member must accept and publicly support board decisions, even if they voted it against it. If they express any dissenting opinion about a board decision, they can be censured, as N6AA was in this case.

In effect, this is a gag order on a director if he disagrees with a Board decision. Not only that, this section seems to say that once someone gets elected to the Board, his allegiance to the Board is more important than the views of the amateur radio operators he represents.

One of my Twitter followers put it this way, "Where else can those ostensibly in a position of representation of the organization's members be punished for publicly criticizing the organization's rules? US Congress? Parliament of the UK? No, and no. [@arrl](https://twitter.com/arrl) board is looking more like North Korea than a representative body." Seriously, can you imagine if the U.S. Congress had such a policy in place?

What did Norton actually do?

I emailed Norton to find out what he said exactly to bring on this censure. Understandably, he was a little hesitant to speak to me directly. I then asked if I could see the supporting statements.

I then received two emails. The first was from Mark Weiss, K6FG. His email contained the text of an email he sent to the ARRL Board of Directors. A second contained an email sent to the board by Tim Duffy, K3LR, the owner of DX Engineering. Both emails supported N6AA, noting that he stated that he supported the board action and that any opposition came from the audience and not from Norton.

So, I go back to my original question. What the heck is the ARRL Board thinking, first in passing this draconian ARRL Policy on Board Governance and Conduct of Members of the Board of Directors and Vice Directors, and second in using it to censure a director, who, according to several accounts, didn't commit the infraction in the first place? Are they so insecure in their decision-making that they have to resort to gag orders like this? Don't they see that taking actions like this brings them more "disrepute" than an honest dissenting opinion?

If this situation angers you as much as it does me, I encourage you to contact your director and make your feelings known. One of my blog readers suggests that your message be “short, non-aggressive, and to the point.” He suggested the following:

Dear [your director’s name here]

I am unhappy with both the ARRL Policy on Board Governance and Conduct of Member of the Board of Directors and Vice Directors (aka the “Code of Conduct”) and the N6AA censure.

I want to freely discuss issues with our directors. I want our directors to tell me where they stand, not where the board stands.

I want the directors to be free to express their opinions and to know how they voted.

I want directors to not fear censure.

Therefore, I urge the following immediate actions:

1. Modify the Code of Conduct to allow the above.
2. Revoke the N6AA censure.

73,

[Your name and callsign go here.]

I hate to say this, but this is only the beginning. Some ARRL directors are planning to propose changes to the League's Articles of Association and By-Laws at the board meeting in January 2018. These changes will make the ARRL even less democratic and more authoritarian.

As reported by CQ magazine (<http://cqnewsroom.blogspot.com/2017/12/changes-proposed-to-arrrl-governing.html>), if these changes are enacted “the board of directors will be able to revoke League membership 'for cause' and to remove board members by revoking their League membership; lesser disciplinary actions against board members, such as censure, will be allowed without the member receiving advance notice or an opportunity to respond to allegations.” Another change will grant voting privileges to the president and three vice-presidents, even though these are appointed positions.

Again, I ask, what the heck is the ARRL board thinking? Do they really think that this is going to make the ARRL a stronger organization and a better advocate for amateur radio? If so, I'd like to hear their reasoning. ARRL membership has been declining for many years (as a percentage of licensed radio amateurs), and these moves are only going to accelerate that decline. I have already heard from many hams that they plan to let their ARRL membership lapse.

Please consider contacting your director today. It may already be too late to save the ARRL.

Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the “No Nonsense” amateur radio license study guides and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com. You can email him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Editor note: The opinions expressed in the above article is solely of the author and not necessarily those of this publication.



Ham radio operators display emergency capabilities during 'Winter Field Day'

By Jim Alexander

Whether it's winter storms, tornadoes, even fires – 'ham radio' operators can provide critical communication during an emergency.

And later this month, local operators will practice their skills during a two-day nationwide deployment called 'Winter Field Day.'

Warrick County ham radio operators will join with thousands of amateur radio operators nationwide, who will be showing off their emergency capabilities on January 27 and 28.

During the last few months, ham radio operators in towns across America have provided critical communications during unexpected emergencies -- including the California wildfires, winter storms and tornadoes, as well as other worldwide events.

During Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, Amateur Radio, often called 'ham radio,' was often the only way people could communicate, and hundreds of volunteer 'hams' traveled south to save lives and property.

When disaster happens, Amateur Radio enthusiasts are often the first to provide rescuers with critical information and communications.

During the weekend of January 27 and 28, the public will have a chance to meet and talk with Warrick County ham radio operators and see what Amateur Radio is about.

Showing the newest digital and satellite capabilities, hams from across the United States will be holding public demonstrations of emergency communications abilities.

During 'Winter Field Day,' using only emergency power supplies, ham operators will construct emergency stations in parks, shopping malls, schools and back yards around the country.

Their slogan, "Ham radio works when other systems don't," is more than just words to the hams as they show they can send messages in many forms without the use of phone systems, internet or any other infrastructure that can be compromised in a crisis.

"We hope that people will come and see for themselves, this is not your grandfather's radio anymore," said Allen Pitts of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). "The communications that ham radio people can quickly create have saved many lives when other systems failed or were overloaded. And besides that – it's fun!"

In the Warrick County area, the Ohio Valley Amateur Radio Club will be demonstrating Amateur Radio at Boonville City Park on January 27 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., and on the January 28 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The public is invited to come and see ham radio's new capabilities and learn how to get their own FCC radio license.

There are over 650,000 Amateur Radio licensees in the US, and more than 2.5 million around the world.

Through the ARRL's Amateur Radio Emergency Services program, ham volunteers provide emergency communications for thousands of state and local emergency response agencies.

A Note to Members from ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR

01/15/2018

I

In the last few weeks, the ARRL's Board of Directors has been the subject of an organized misinformation campaign. It is being orchestrated by a group of hams, some of whom are well-intentioned but have been misled. This effort, which consists of a series of mischaracterizations, initially dealt with (1) the ARRL Board's censure of an ARRL Director, and (2) some proposed revisions to ARRL's *Articles of Association* and *Bylaws* that are likely to be considered at the upcoming ARRL Board meeting and which were circulated by a member of the Board. None of the proposed *Article* and *Bylaw* changes has yet been addressed by the Board of Directors. More recently, other equally erroneous and false statements have been made with respect to completely unrelated issues, in an effort to draw into question ARRL's decision-making processes. The principal suggestion is that ARRL operates under some "cloak of secrecy." The criticism is unfair and undeserved.

ARRL's representative system of governance, which has worked exceptionally well in the advocacy and promotion of Amateur Radio and the interests of ARRL members for more than 100 years, is unchanged. And the legislative and other advocacy positions currently being pursued are critical to the long-term survivability of the Amateur Radio Service.

The ARRL Board does seek thoughtful, informed input on policy issues concerning Amateur Radio from its roughly 150,000 members. ARRL's governance structure provides that regionally elected, volunteer directors will represent the interests of the members in their respective Divisions, working collectively and collegially within our Board to make policy and to advocate their constituents' interests. ARRL's Board members hold cabinet meetings and forums at hamfests and conventions, and they staff ARRL booths at hamfests and conventions in order to find out what interests and concerns you have as ARRL members. They take this feedback from you, and they come to Board meetings twice a year to make policy for the organization. They work together collegially to develop the best policy decisions. This structure presumes that the Board's collective wisdom is far greater than that of any one Board member, and each Board member is obligated by our *Articles* and *Bylaws* to come to meetings with a good idea of what the members need and what is best for Amateur Radio as a whole.

As is the case with most large, national non-profit associations, ARRL Board meetings are not open to the public. It has always been that way, as a matter of necessity. That is because, at all such meetings, confidential issues such as spectrum protection, employee compensation, financial information, and FCC submissions are candidly discussed, and the members' interests at those meetings are advocated by the Directors on a representative basis. Unfortunately, it was necessary for the Board to take the highly unusual action of publicly censuring one of its members recently. The Board heard the allegations made by an ARRL member of what transpired at an Amateur Radio event; it heard reports from other amateurs who were there, and it heard all the information that the Director involved chose to present. Everyone had a chance to speak and to evaluate the presentations. The Board, in an 11 to 3 vote with one abstention, took action to protect the organization's integrity based on the information presented. This process and procedure are what nonprofit associations have to be prepared to employ, and do employ, to

maintain order within their organizations and to ensure that the interests of the affected Director are protected as well. This is not a procedure that any nonprofit organization would conduct publicly.

The ARRL *Policy on Board Governance and Conduct of Members of the Board of Directors and Vice Directors* has been drawn into question, probably as the result of the fact that the Board's censure decision was based upon a violation of that policy by the Director involved. The Policy is intended to protect the democratic decision-making processes by which ARRL has operated effectively for so long, and to set forth principles to guide an organization's decision making and the behavior of individual board members when acting on behalf of ARRL. When it was adopted by the Board a year ago, it was posted for ARRL members to read. The policy calls for honesty, integrity, transparency, confidentiality, and equity. The purpose of adopting such a statement formally is to provide employees, volunteers, and board members with guidelines for making ethical choices and to ensure that there is accountability for those choices.

When board members of a nonprofit adopt a code of ethics, they are expressing their commitment to ethical behavior. It is intended to protect the Board's deliberations and to protect the staff from inappropriate actions by Board members. It seeks to preclude precisely the type of selective disclosures and unilateral and subjective characterizations of proposed Board actions that have happened recently. There is nothing at all insidious about the policy, which is subject to regular review and modification, as are all other ARRL organizational documents. As to the criticism of the proposed *Articles* and *Bylaws* changes, the Board has not yet considered them. It may or may not adopt some or all of the changes recommended by its Executive Committee or by an individual Director. Any responsible Board of Directors regularly reviews, amends and updates its *Articles* and *Bylaws*. And ARRL member input is welcome on all such subjects. Indeed, the recommended *Article* and *Bylaw* changes were not considered to be Board confidential. The problem, however, is that it is not fair to members, or to the representative Directors who have yet to evaluate them collectively, to have the proposals mischaracterized or misrepresented. ARRL Directors are volunteers. They are smart, dedicated radio amateurs who each devote thousands of hours per year of their own time to representing you as best they can.

To those who try to suggest that the Board has abandoned its obligation to the members in favor of the organization — you draw a distinction that doesn't exist. The Board absolutely understands that the members are the organization. The members of ARRL are always best served by an informed Board that works together to make policy that is in the best interests of the organization. The divisive tactics that are being used now, commenced through disinformation and a lack of candor, are harmful not only to the organization, but to Amateur Radio operators everywhere, the good work of the ARRL staff, and the Service that we love so much.

.....Rick Roderick, K5UR, President ARRL — *the national association for Amateur Radio*

UP – COMING ACTIVITIES AND HAMFESTS

01/20/2018 – 0800 MARC Monthly meeting at the Johnson County REMC.

Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

02/17/2018 – 0800 MARC Monthly meeting at the Johnson County REMC.

Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

03/17/2018 – 0800 MARC Monthly meeting at the Johnson County REMC.

Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

04/21/2018 – 0800 MARC Monthly meeting at the Johnson County REMC.

Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

05/19/2018 – 0800 MARC Monthly meeting at the Johnson County REMC.

Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.



RFinder WW Repeater Directory

<http://subscribe.rfinder.net>

CLUB DUES FOR 2018

It is that time of year for your dues for the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club.

The dues are still \$18.00 and they have remained that amount for many years.

This also a good time to update any of your information for club records such as licience upgrade, change of address or call sign.

This is also a good opportunity for new members to join our club and join in our club activities.

**Please see Marlys Barr, KC9BHM
M.A.R.C. Treasurer**

ARES/RACES UPDATE INFORMATION

Spring is just around the corner and with it as we all know severe weather is part of it. So far this winter severe weather has not been a big issue, however we must be prepared as best as we can when the unexpected happens or we are activated by the National Weather Service and our own Johnson County EMA.

In preparation for these unseen events it is good to take inventory of our own personal radio equipment and check to see how well it is working. At times we maybe required to operate from a remote area or use a simplex mode as we did for the Fall Simulated Emergency Test. Everytime we set up portable station as a MARC club activity or as an ARES/RACES exercise we are practicing for something we may have to do at some time in the future.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) has been the public service communication program of the ARRL since 1935. Over many years and following many natural disasters, volunteers in our field organizations have provided us with a lot of valuable feedback about the ways we could improve and modernize (including adapting to new communication modes) to make this organization work more efficiently and effectively.

The ARRL Board of Directors created a working group to look at the input from volunteers in the field organization, as well as incorporating the work of previous committees studying improvements to ARRL public service programs, to develop strategies to enhance the professionalism and consistency of the ARES program and those who are part of it

The working group recognized that there is a strong need for a robust volunteer management system to connect field organizations to training, resources, and information from ARRL. Other improvements that will be rolled out in the months ahead include establishment of national training requirements and improved local training resources, updated ARES operating guidelines, and updated field organization job descriptions.

A few weeks ago, an announcement went out outlining the changes coming to the ARES program. The first of these changes, establishing ARES Group IDs, is now ready. Before we get into the instructions on how to register your ARES group, we first want to cover some basic questions on how the ID relates to this new volunteer management system ARES Connect.

What is ARES Connect?

ARES Connect is a volunteer management system that will allow each ARES group to manage their roster, create and staff events, and track nets and training. Each ARES group and ARRL Section will have a unique page on the platform with appropriate admin control given to the ARES Emergency Coordinator.

ARES members will be able to create a user profile that connects them to their local ARES group. Through their profile they can register for ARES (pending EC approval), sign up for events, log volunteer hours, and log training.

Reporting will be different through ARES Connect. As users log activity, data is created that allows ECs, DEC's and SECs to run custom reports. The current ARES report forms will continue to be used through 2018 as the system is being built, but our current plan is to shift all reporting over to ARES Connect in January 2019.

Beta testing of the platform will begin in early 2018. Look for more information to be released about ARES Connect around midyear, once testing and initial build is complete.

Who applies for the ARES Group ID Number?

Most ARES groups are responsible for a local coverage area and are coordinated by an Emergency Coordinator. For this reason, the Emergency Coordinator will need to apply for the ID number. If your ARES group is operational at a district level the DEC may need to apply. All ARRL Sections will be

provided a unique page on ARES Connect identified by their section abbreviation, so SECs will not need to apply for an ID.

Why does my group need the ID?

ARES groups now lack a *unique* identifier, like a call sign, and the similarity of names within a region or even across the country can cause confusion. For example, does the designated name “Montgomery County ARES” refer to Texas, Pennsylvania, or Ohio. All three states have a Montgomery County ARES group? A unique identifier will resolve this ambiguity.

The ID will be used for the ARES Connect system. Your group will not be able to participate without it; which will impact your ability to report and receive ARES group benefits.

Do not use this ID for your ARES members. When we open ARES Connect for users to create their profiles, they will use their call sign as their user ID.

As the ARES Coordinator for Johnson County I will be submitting the necessary forms to become part of ARES Connect. This system has been long needed and end some confusion what county ARES group is submitting what report. There are many other Johnson Counties through out the US.

If you are a member of ARES/RACES you will need to download the ARES/RACES application form located on the MARC webpage, www.midstatehams.org please look under the Downloads section in ARES, RACES, Skywarn. Please fill out this form and either mail it to me or scan it and send to my email address. Since last year there may have been changes in call sign, address, phone number, license class, modes of operation etc.

If you are not a member of ARES/RACES and would like to join please fill out the form in it's entirety and send it to me as listed above.

The beginning of a new year is the best time to make sure all records are up to date.

..... Bob, N9SIU – Johnson County Indiana, Emergency Coordinator n9siu@arri.net



Snoopy finally passes his General License Exam!

MID-SATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month
at the Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a *HAM* to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

WA9RDF Repeater:

146.835/
146.235 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

Club Officers:

President: Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG
Vice President: Ron Schuetz -K9THR
Secretary: Rhonda Curtis – WS9H
Treasurer: Marlys Barr – KD9BHM
Repeater Trustee - Chris Frederick – KQ9Y

WA9RDF Repeater:

443.525/
448.525 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS
146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 Hz PL Tone)

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 836
Franklin, Indiana
46131

Spark Gap Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email: n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd of the month



Special thanks to Johnson County REMC for the use of their community room for meetings and testing.